



News Briefs

Prayer Breakfast

The 4100th Group commander will be the speaker at Monday's Tuzla Base Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the dining facility.

Col. Paul Cooper will speak, and the Gospel choir and 1st Armored Division's woodwind quintet will provide musical selections.

Seating is limited. People desiring to attend must pick up tickets at the Tuzla Main Chapel, or sign up with the Task Force Eagle chaplain's office.

Safety NCO

The 4100th Group has a newly-appointed safety noncommissioned officer. Base Operation's Tech. Sgt. Hector Bosques is the appointee. He can be reached at extension 149.

Holiday Greetings

4100th Group airmen will have a chance to send holiday greetings to their families and friends via the radio waves next week.

Broadcasters from the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service's 1996 Holiday Greetings Radio Tape Program are scheduled to be on Tuzla Air Base Friday. Message recording is slated to begin at 1:15 p.m. Airmen interested in recording holiday messages should be flexible though, because the team may arrive earlier in the week.

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Task Force Eagle Totals



Scheduled:	4,149
Total flown:	3,526
Inbound passengers:	30,963
Cargo (short tons):	30,558
Vehicles:	1,312
Patients medevaced:	688

flight figures current as of Sept. 26, 1996
medevac figures current as of Sept. 26, 1996

EOD flight attends first NATO IFOR conference

Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land
TUZLA TIMES

TUZLA AIR BASE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — USAF Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists deployed to the 4100th Group (Provisional) here attended the first NATO Implementation Force EOD Conference Sept. 25-26 in Steel Castle, Tuzla East.

According to event's organizer, the purpose of the two-day international see EOD, page 4



Master Sgt. Robert Hodges works with Lt. Gabriel Doreleijers disassembling the M-81A2 50 caliber Barrett rifle. The rifle is used during stand-off munitions disruption operations, a procedure to deflagrate hazardous munitions from a distance.

Medevac flight soars to century mark with mission

Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land
TUZLA TIMES

TUZLA AIR BASE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — 4100th Group (Provisional) Aeromedical Evacuation Flight medical professionals flew their 100th aeromedical evacuation mission from the Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility here to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Thursday.

The four patients brought to 688 the total number of patients evacuated by the Tuzla-based AEF. Two of the patients were litter patients and two were ambulatory. The patients' medical conditions are confidential.

One flight nurse and two medical technicians cared for patients on the routine C-130 mission. Aeromedical evacuation crews currently fly routine missions

between Tuzla and Ramstein Monday and Thursday of each week. The three-person medevac crew is a pared-down version of the normal five-person crew, with its two nurses and three med techs.

AEF members assigned to the Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team at the Army's Mobile Aeromedical Staging Hospital at Camp Bedrock were responsible for planning and coordinating the patient movement.

The AEF flew its first medevac Dec. 24, 1995. The medical professionals performing this vital mission are the third rotation of aeromedical crew members deployed to Tuzla. Twenty-six people are currently assigned. Seven flight nurses, 12 medical technicians, five radio operators, and two administrative officers compose the current team.

Members are assigned to two of three different locations vital to the mission. The see MASF, page 5

USAFE's SEA Benken appointed 12th CMSAF, replaces Campanale

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman has named Chief Master Sgt. Eric W. Benken to serve as the service's 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Benken will replace CMSAF David J. Campanale, who will retire Nov. 4 after 26 years of service to the Air Force and the Nation.

"I want to personally thank Chief Campanale for his tireless efforts as an advocate for our enlisted force," Fogleman said. "I'm sure that all of you will join me in bidding him and his wife, Barbara, a fond farewell, and wish them great success in retirement."

Fogleman said selecting a new CMSAF was one of the most difficult decisions he has made in some time, since he is convinced that all of the candidates would have been excellent leaders for our enlisted force.

"Chief Benken is going to join the Air



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman named Chief Master Sgt. Eric W. Benken to serve as the service's 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. (Official U.S. Air Force photo).

Force senior leadership at what I consider to be an exciting time for our Air Force," Fogleman said. "We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary and we're in the process of defining the Air Force of the future."

Benken, who was born in Cincinnati, entered the Air Force in March 1970. His background is in information management and he has served in operational, maintenance and support units from squadron to major command level.

He has served in the Republics of Taiwan, Korea and Vietnam, and in a joint service assignment at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Prior to his current appointment with USAFE — which began in October 1994 — Benken was the senior enlisted advisor to the commander of Twelfth Air Force at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Benken has two sons, Brian and Kyle. He and his wife, the former Johnne Ceravolo, have a daughter, Erica.

Chief 'humbled' at prospect of assuming top NCO post

by Master Sgt. Dale Warman
USAFE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (UNS) — When Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman picked up the phone Sept. 24 to call his newest chief master sergeant of the Air Force, no one was more surprised than the person on the other end of the line.

CMSgt. Eric W. Benken says he was "humbled" just to be considered for the job, and he looks forward to continuing the work started by CMSAF David J. Campanale.

"I'm very honored to have even been considered," the chief said. "I have great respect for the gentlemen who have held

the office before, and I am humbled to be in their company."

Benken has experience as both a numbered air force and major command senior enlisted advisor, which he says exposed him to issues on a more global perspective, and that he gained a lot of knowledge from Campanale, who worked very hard to keep field SEAs involved in what was happening throughout the Air Force.

"CMSAF Campanale opened up the inner sanctum of the Pentagon to all of us," the chief said. "MAJCOM advisors were able to stay abreast of what was happening throughout the Air Force, and he gave us a stake in the outcome of all the issues affecting

enlisted people.

"General Fogleman and CMSAF Campanale have slain many dragons over the past two years," he added. "The Air Force has stabilized, but there are still challenges facing us. I plan to pick up the baton and see to fruition the work Chief Campanale has started."

Benken will move to the Pentagon from his job as senior enlisted advisor for U.S. Air Forces in Europe, where he has served three commanders and led the command to major gains in quality of life and enlisted professional development. He arrived here just as the command

see CMSAF, page 4



THE Tuzla Times

Published for the men and women of the 4100th Group (P)

"The Wings of Task Force Eagle"

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4100th Group (P) commander

Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land

Public Affairs chief

Staff Sgt. Paul Rutzinski

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**Senior Airman
Brian L. Egger**

*4100th Group (P)
Radar Approach Control*

Hometown: Midlothian, Va.

Age: 27

Specialty: Air Traffic Controller
(*Or so they keep telling me!*)

Home Unit/Base:

20th Operations Support
Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Time in Service: 6 years

Time at Tuzla: 2 months 13 days
(*Approximately too long*)

Deployed mission: Providing
radar approach control services,
including separating and sequencing
aircraft, into and out of Tuzla.

Hobbies: Golf, softball, football,
and spending time with my family
(*which makes my wife happy*)

**Where do you see yourself in 10
years?** As one of the Air Force's
finest air traffic controllers, or as a
business owner.

**What do you like most about
Tuzla?** (*Like most? What is there
not to like?*) Having the opportunity
to do my job at a deployed location
and to meet new people.

I really enjoyed the four-day R&R
trip to Budapest, Hungary!

**What do you like least about
Tuzla?** (*Like least? What is there to
like?*) Camping for 120 days, eating
MREs, and missing my family.

Reserve Affairs Secretary awards six NATO medals

A senior
Department of Defense
official presented
NATO Medals to six
4100th Group airmen
when she visited Tuzla
Air Base Friday.

Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Reserve
Affairs Deborah Roche Lee
Lee awarded the half dozen medals before
receiving a mission briefing and touring
the air traffic control tower.

Lee is the principal staff assistant and



advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all
matters involving the Reserve components
of the United States Armed Forces.

Five of the recipients were Reserve
component members, including the group
and deputy group commanders: Col. Paul
Cooper, Lt. Col. Bruce Davis and the
Aeromedical Evacuation Flight's Staff
Sgt. Russell Shaw Jr. and the Aerial Port's
Tech. Sgt. Lennax Knowles are in the Air
Force Reserve; the AEF's Staff Sgt.
Robert Adams is in the Air Guard.

Master Sgt. Thomas Swepson is an
active duty member.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land

Re-up-uP-UP

Staff Sgt. Juan Galvez re-'up'ed for six
years Saturday. 4100th Group
commander Col. Paul Cooper and
Galvez were hoisted almost 40 feet
above Charlie ramp in the basket of a
de-icing truck. Galvez has 9 years in
service.

Super hero?

The 4100th Group Aerial Port
Squadron's home-grown 'super hero,'
"Captain Tuzla," welcomed the 14 APS
troops arriving from McGuire AFB, NJ.
The 621st APS replaces the 615th
APS from Travis AFB, Calif.

The following subjects are scheduled for Combat Readiness Training classes.
Classes begin at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 8 p.m. Tuesday and
Thursday.

Oct. 7-11	CPR and medical training	AEF
Oct. 14-18	ground and fire safety	CEF
Oct. 21-25	gas mask cleaning and training	LG
Oct. 28-Nov. 1	weapons cleaning and training	SPS

EOD, from page 1**Soft-shoe**

Finnish EOD specialists demonstrated the effectiveness of inflatable mine clearing shoes. Here, the wearer steps on PMA-2, left, and PMA-3, right, anti-personnel mines with live fuses without detonating either of them.



exchange is to save lives. "We're all doing the same work," said Army Maj. Tim Everhard, 546th EOD Battalion, referring to the specialists representing 12 nations including those from the U.S. Air Force, Army and Marine Corps. "Our ultimate goal is to prevent injury and to save lives."

The twelve nations were the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and United States.

The six USAFE airmen currently assigned to the 4100th Group represent four of the five USAFE bases with EOD flights: Aviano AB, Italy; RAFLakenheath, United Kingdom; and Ramstein and Spangdahlem, Germany. Incirlik AB, Turkey, currently has no specialists deployed.

There is also no one deployed from any other Air Force base. "This is strictly a USAFE effort," said Headquarters USAFE's newly assigned EOD functional manager, Chief Master Sgt. John Pattee. The chief attended the conference while on a trip to Bosnia to familiarize himself with the EOD mission and the level of support.

The Air Force contingent showed several tools of their trade. The one that gained the most interest was the real-time X-ray imaging



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land

Real-time X-ray imaging system

system. This system took a conventional tool and improved its use, ensuring greater safety for those using it.

"This is the only real-time X-ray operationally deployed in the Air Force," said 4100th Group (P) EOD Flight chief Master Sgt. Robert Hodges. Hodges is deployed from the 52nd EOD Flight at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. He said it's one of two available in USAFE.

"It reduces the 'time on target' and the number of entries sometimes required while

attaining a usable X-ray," he said of the system's advantages. Hodges added that this reduces the hazard EOD specialists face during explosive safing operations.

The airmen assigned to the provisional group's EOD flight have been responsible for almost 350 operations and have turned up and destroyed almost 475 pieces of ordnance, among them 19 mines. Other ordnance include small arms cartridges, anti-aircraft munitions, and air-launched missiles.

Aviano's Senior Airman Chris Stallcup, who manned the Air Force equipment display, was excited about the opportunity to attend the conference.

"It's awesome. You never get a chance to see all the different countries and all the different equipment," he said on the drive back to Tuzla Main. "It's neat to see how far along the countries are in EOD."

Senior Airman Chuck Campbell from Spangdahlem has been to EOD conferences before, but not one of this magnitude.

"This is the first meeting I've been to with this many countries," he said. "All the countries have pretty much the same equipment; we're all on the same wavelength."

CMSAF, from page 2

completed the bulk of its drawdown and began to have some stability. However, funding for quality of life projects didn't become a reality until well into his tenure and after a lot of emphasis from USAFE leaders.

"My past two years as the USAFE senior enlisted advisor have certainly been the best of my career," Benken said. "Some people may think that working for three different commanders would have been difficult, but on the contrary each one has

been a strong advocate for the command and contributed to USAFE in his own special way.

"They were our advocates in Washington and at the Pentagon — they told the USAFE story and got support for new dorms, housing upgrades, child development centers, commissaries and exchanges," the chief said. He also credits the civil engineer and comptroller communities with the tough work of planning and budgeting for the many improvements throughout the command.

Among Benken's accomplishments has been focusing USAFE on improving

dormitories and bringing them up to the Defense Department's one-plus-one standard, where each airman will have a private room and share a common bathroom and kitchen area with another person.

What started as a USAFE dormitory oversight committee in 1994 has evolved into a firm plan to build or renovate 32 dormitories in the next five years, including construction on seven dorms in Greece, Italy, Germany and England in fiscal 1996 and 1997.

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News Briefs

The program allows service members stationed overseas to send Christmas and Hanukkah holiday greetings to their loved ones at home through their hometown radio stations.

To record the greeting, you will need the following information with you: name and relationship of person to whom the greeting is directed, their full address, including zip code, and their home or office telephone number. Local radio stations choosing to air the greeting use the telephone number to call the relative when they schedule its broadcast.

Call Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Land at extension 102 with any questions.

1997 Funds

Fiscal year 1996 money expires Monday at midnight. On Tuesday, all funding comes from FY 1997 appropriations. If your orders do not have FY 97 funding, you need to contact your home station orderly room to amend your orders.

Without FY 97 funding, the Air Force will not pay for your travel, and the 4100 Group finance officer cannot advance funds; this includes funds for travel out of Tuzla. This could mean you must pay for all expenses.

If you are not sure if your orders have FY 97 funds, call Staff Sgt. Joe Knapp at extension 114, or stop by his office in the base tower and he'll look at your orders.

CMSAF, from page 4

Although USAFE is less than 10 percent of the Air Force's active-duty force, the command in 1994 had roughly 33 percent of the Air Force's dormitories with "gang latrines," Benken said. "The bottom line is that our troops will be out of gang latrines within five years."

Benken has traveled to such far-flung places as Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Hungary to visit and check on command people, as they have been at the lead of U.S. military operations in those countries.

MASF, from page 1

MASF and the AELT at the MASH. The third link is the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Center at Ramstein

Professionals from the 23rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Pope AFB, NC, and the 86th AES, Ramstein AB, make up the bulk of the flight. One Reservist and two Guard members are also assigned. This mix equals success on these "ambulances with wings," according to the flight commander.

"They're doing an outstanding job," said Capt. Vivian Harris from the 23rd AES. "I couldn't expect a better group of people," she said, noting that this especially applies to those for whom this is their first deployment.

Because of contingency inexperience, specifically in the European theater, she said the planners who composed the team did a great job. Harris said that her home unit does a lot of training, but the people from the 86th and the Guard and Reserve have flown more real-world missions. "The 86th AES folks have been vital, because they know what USAFE resources are available," she said.

Harris shared a story of how an 86th AES crew member's knowledge was valuable when a mission was diverted to Aviano AB, Italy. This Ramstein-based med tech knew what was available at the base, what the clinic had to offer, and when the next mission would be available. "It gave me the information right there on board, without having to make a lot of phone calls."

This is a special duty assignment for the crew members, said flight superintendent

Master Sgt. Daryl Neely. He has flown five missions as a medical technician since his arrival in August. This is his first deployment to a MASF.

"Everything from severe trench foot to head trauma, we're well trained to accept and manage any type of patient."

Neely

Neely explained that the AEF has cared for a variety of medical needs. "Everything from severe trench foot to head trauma," he said. "We're well trained to accept and manage any type of patient."

In between these two extremes, they've cared for patients suffering from burns, fractures, and pulmonary disorders, as well as those post-operative emergency surgery evacuees. They have also evacuated pregnant patients, and those with mental health needs.

He noted the vital teamwork between the aeromedical crews and the aircrews. "In general, they're very concerned about our patients," Neely said. "We work with the loadmaster and aircraft commander on patient requirements and needs." He gave examples like those for patients who have a requirement for altitude restrictions, and those who need to avoid turbulence and who need 'soft' landings.

Aeromedical Evacuation Flight totals

100 missions	688 Total Patients
-14 Urgent	- 659 Army
-19 Priority	- 12 USAF
-67 Routine	- 17 Other

"I have been very proud of our participation in the many deployments we have supported," the chief said. "I am especially proud of the way our Air Force troops have responded to the Bosnia mission.

"When I first visited Tuzla during the initial phase of the deployment, I was amazed at the attitude and professionalism," he added. "Their living conditions were extremely tough — housed in cramped, abandoned buildings; showers and toilets were at a premium; and eating MREs three times a day.

"Everywhere I went, I would meet Guard

and Reserve personnel, and people TDY from other commands. I never received one complaint — and that has been the story on my subsequent visits as well. It's a great Air Force team."

In the end, Benken says, his role has been to serve the enlisted people of the command — a role that will now surely grow as he becomes the 12th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

"Everywhere you go in this command, someone will say that things are better than they used to be — and that's what it's all about." (USAFE News Service)